

LWV-Education Committee Minutes

01-10-2012 Visitor Center 3:00 – 5:00

Present: Ronnie Alff, Barb Berry, Inara Kurt, Pat Laarman, Jane Watts, AnnWettlaufer.

Minutes: There were no corrections or additions to the 11/8/11 minutes.

Area Public School District Updates

TCAPS board meetings are televised (channel 98) and minutes can be viewed on the www.tcaps.net. It was suggested that we do need to show League presence by live attendance at the TCAPS board meetings. Volunteers are needed. I. Kurt discussed the TCAPS Board meeting of 1-9-12. Committee members received a copy of the TCAPS *One Page Strategic Plan* for 2011-2016. Three West Middle School teachers have been nominated for the Michigan Teacher of the Year award. P. Laarman distributed a chart of the Leelanau County School districts populations and per pupil funding. The highest per pupil funding out of formula was Northport schools at \$31,000 with 151 students.

Current State Educational Legislation Update

I. Kurt distributed and presented the new Legislative Excel spreadsheet that should make it easier to update the local League website. It is possible to convert the spreadsheet to an accessible table on the website. Mary Beeker is currently reviewing the viability of that process. The Committee decided it liked the look of the new table and also would like to include the voting record of our local state legislators by district on the bills. Updates will be completed as appropriate. It was also decided that the previously discussed task of correlating the newly proposed legislation with the Governors proposed **Educational Reforms of April 2011** and the **Addendum of December 2011** (www.michigan.gov/mde) was too overwhelming a task with questionable benefit. Instead this committee will concentrate on each member documenting a log of possible education questions for the 2012 Forum candidates. The questions will be reviewed at the April 10 meeting.

Library Issues:

B. Berry discussed the recent *Bridge* article on the impact and demise of Public school libraries on student education. It was suggested that TCAPS school boards and top administrators get a copy of this article. There will be more discussion of this at the next library action committee meeting. The next meeting of the Library Action Committee will be on Jan 23 with Barb Berry.

Other:

The next Education Committee will meet April 10, 2012 at the Visitor Center from 3-5.

Submitted by Inara Kurt 1-16-12

The League of Women Voters is where hands-on work to safeguard democracy leads to civic improvement.